

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A hermetic compressor comprising:
an electric driving element;
a compressing element driven by the electric driving element; and
a closed vessel for housing the electric driving element and the compressing element,
wherein the compressing element comprises:
a shaft having an eccentric shaft portion, a spindle portion provided at a bottom surface of the eccentric shaft portion, and an auxiliary shaft portion provided at a top surface of the eccentric shaft portion so as to be coaxial with the spindle portion;
a cylinder block provided with a compression chamber;
a main bearing provided on the cylinder block so as to support the spindle portion;
an auxiliary bearing provided on the cylinder block so as to support the auxiliary shaft portion;
a piston reciprocating in the compression chamber; and
a connecting member for connecting the piston and the eccentric shaft portion;
wherein a first balance weight is provided on the auxiliary shaft portion at a top end of the eccentric shaft portion;
wherein a second balance weight is provided on the spindle portion at a bottom end of the eccentric shaft portion; and
wherein the first balance weight is coupled to the auxiliary shaft portion by a separate member, the separate member being arranged between the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion so as to be in contact with the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion.

2. (Previously Presented) A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the separate member is a screw, and wherein the auxiliary shaft portion and the first balance weight are coupled to each other by the screw so as to be fixed.

3. (Previously Presented) A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the separate member is a rivet, and wherein the auxiliary shaft portion and the first balance weight are coupled to each other by the rivet so as to be fixed.

4. (Previously Presented) A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the auxiliary shaft portion and the first balance weight are provided with a concave part and a convex part, respectively, such that the concave part and the convex part fit together so as to position the first balance weight.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the main bearing is coupled with the cylinder block by a fastening member.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 2, wherein the auxiliary shaft portion includes a sliding portion within the auxiliary bearing, and a hole through which the screw passes, wherein a distance between a top end of the sliding portion and a top end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than $1/2$ of a diameter of the hole, and wherein a distance between a bottom end of the sliding portion and a bottom end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than $1/2$ of the diameter of the hole.

10. (Previously Presented) A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 3, wherein the auxiliary shaft portion includes a sliding portion within the auxiliary bearing, and a hole through which the rivet passes, wherein a distance between a top end of the sliding portion and a top end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than $1/2$ of a diameter of the hole, and wherein a distance between a bottom end of the sliding portion and a bottom end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than $1/2$ of the diameter of the hole.